

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 07187 241043Z

44

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9690

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7187

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ET, US

SUBJ: LANDING/PARKING/NAVIGATION FEES IN ETHIOPIA

REFS: A. STATE 127212 B. ADDIS 9796 8/17/73; C. STATE 237352 12/4/73

1. EMBASSY CONCURS DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION FOR NEW PARA A IN DRAFT NOTE PER PARA 2 REFTEL A. HOWEVER, STANDING ALONE THIS ADDITIONAL PARA COULD PRECLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAA AGREED FORMULA FOR EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGING ARREARAGES.

2. THEREFORE WE PROPOSE ADDITIONALLY NEW PARA B WITH REQUIRED REDESIGNATION OF EXISTING PARAS TO INCLUDE SPECIFICS ON PARKING/ LANDING/NAVIGATION FEES REFLECTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING PREVIOUSLY REACHED WITH CAA (SEE PARA 2 REF B): "B. THE USG AGREES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPLEMENTED FOR CHARGES FALLING DUE DURING THE PERIOD UP TO JUNE 30, 1974 ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CAA APPROVED FORMULATIONS: (1) AL UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AND PARKING AT BOLE (ADDIS ABABA) WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM LANDING AND PARKING FEES AND ALL UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDING AND PARKING AT YOHANNES IV (ASMARA) WOULD BE ASSESSED AT RATES NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE PAID BY OTHER STATE AIRCRAFT USING THE FIELD; (2) THE USG WOULD ALSO BE ASSESSED SERVICE CHARGES TO COMPENSATE THE CAA FOR ACTUAL BURDENS PLACED ON ITS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITIES BY  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 07187 241043Z

UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT A RATE OF ONE-HALF THE TOTAL

ACTUAL CHARGES WHICH IN NO CASE WOULD BE GREATER THAN THOSE PAID BY OTHER STATE AIRCRAFT."

3. WE REALIZE THAT NEW UNDERSTANDING ON LANDING AND PARKING FEES WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ASSESSMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1, 1974 IN LIGHT KAGNEW PHASEDOWN AND RESULTING DECREASE IN US FLIGHTS TO ASMARA. WE CONCUR PER PARA 2 REF C THAT CAA WILL PROBABLY ALSO WISH AMEND ASSESSMENT FORMULA. AS PROPOSED NOTE NOW READS, ASSESSMENT FORMULA FOLLOWING JULY 1, 1974, WOULD INVOLVE PARA A EXEMPTION ALL MAAG-RELATED FLIGHTS AT BOTH AIRPORTS. ASSESSMENTS FOR NAVIGATION CHARGES SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1, 1974 SHOULD ALSO BE MADE EASIER FOLLOWING CLOSURE KAGNEW AND VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-MAAG FLIGHTS.

4. IN CALL ON IEG MINISTER OF FINANCE, CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF LANDING/PARKING/NAVIGATION FEES AND MAAG SUPPORT ARREARAGES. HE POINTED OUT ROUGHLY ETH\$10 MILLION NET OBLIGATION TO USG AND INCREASED GAO INTEREST IN FAILURE TO RESOLVE MATTER. WHILE ISSUE COMPLEX AND FURTHER STAFF WORK REQUIRED, CHARGE TOLD MINISTER WE WOULD SOON BE PRESENTING FORMAL PROPOSITION FOR SETTLING PROBLEM AND REQUESTED HE SEEK APPROPRIATE STAFF BRIEFING ON ISSUE. MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WOULD FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH ENTIRE QUESTION.

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## Message Attributes

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